

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2007

Approximately 1:35 pm; Chairman Winn called the meeting to Order

- 1) Introductions of Members and Attendees – Quorum Established
- 2) Approval of February 2007 Meeting Minutes – Upon motion by Member Buel, second by Member Mulholland, and vocal vote, minutes of the February 7, 2007, meeting of the Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) were approved as written, with one abstention.
- 3) Public Comment – John Snyder confirms that he will present his prospective as a landowner on the Santa Maria Groundwater Litigation Phase V Decision at the May WRAC meeting and speaks to the hold on the Public Utilities Commission decision regarding rate approvals pending a new supplemental water alternative for Nipomo. Nipomo CSD will also be providing their legal opinion on the Santa Maria Groundwater Litigation Phase V Decision at the May WRAC meeting. Mark Hutchinson, SLO County Public Works, speaks to the coagulant spill in Arroyo Grande Creek stemming from a faulty valve at the Lopez Water Treatment Plant, notification of regulatory agencies, number and type of deceased fish, and results of water quality tests. Member Mulholland reports that Steelhead Trout were seen spawning in San Luis Creek near the intersection of Higuera and Marsh.
- 4) Member Reports – Member Winholtz summarizes population projections, water supply and demand, and water quality emergency contingency plans for Morro Bay. Discussion ensues on the cost to reserve drought buffer via the State Water Project, the reliability of their water supply, cost to produce desalinated water and the source of nitrate contamination.
- 5) Ongoing Updates
 - a. Groundwater Banking Subcommittee: Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, informs the WRAC that the Subcommittee met on March 1, 2007, and heard a presentation from the Paso Basin Feasibility Study Consultant on the initial project alternatives and screening criteria. The Subcommittee also briefly discussed nomination of a new chairperson. The next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2007 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm at the Templeton Community Services District. The Consultant will be back to present the alternatives for detailed analysis.
 - b. Rainfall and Reservoir Update: The hydrological status of the County and the operational characteristics of Twitchell Reservoir are discussed.
 - c. SLO County Ocean Disposal Alternative/Central Valley Selenium Project Update: Jeff Oliveria, SLO County Planning, informs the WRAC that the US Bureau of Reclamation Record of Decision (ROD) is an in-valley treatment and land-retirement alternative; staff will give a brief presentation to the

WRAC once the ROD has been published. Discussion ensues on the potential for privatizing the project, continued monitoring of the project by County staff and the project approval process at the federal level.

- d. Addressing Senate Bill 1087: Doug Bird, SLO County Public Works, summarizes County policies on reserving water and sewer capacity for low income housing for County operated systems. Discussion ensues regarding the lack of quantification of amounts reserved and when the quantities will be available.
- e. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program: Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, summarizes the presentation provided at the State Water Board hearing on February 20, 2007, in response to proposed changes on the Proposition 50 funding guidelines.

<Agenda Item #9 is moved up as it is relevant to Agenda Item 5.e. >

- 6) (9) Proposition 50 and 84 Grant Funding: Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works, informs the WRAC that the February 20, 2007, State Water Board item on IRWM funding recommendations was postponed until March 20, 2007, allowing the County to pursue working with the other agencies in the Proposition 84 IRWM Central Coast Funding Area to develop regional recommendations in lieu of opposing the proposed elimination of the second round of funding. Regional recommendations were successfully developed based on a key principle that those areas not funded by Proposition 50 would get initial priority for an allocation of Proposition 84 funding. The region also supports the Los Osos Wastewater Project as a special case to be considered for receiving funding via the State Water Board's Coastal projects implementation grant program. Discussion ensues regarding keeping the San Luis region distinct from the Monterey region over the Salinas basin and the likelihood of Los Osos receiving funding due to the loan default. **Upon motion by Member Garfinkel, and second by Member Buel, the WRAC recommends that their Chairperson write a letter to the Board of Supervisors supporting the regional recommendations developed by the Central Coast funding region by a vote of 14-0-0.**
- 7) (6) WRAC By-Laws – Private Industry at-Large Member: The WRAC reviews language proposed by Staff to incorporate a Private Industry at-Large Member into the By-Laws and discusses whether it should be a non-voting member. Motion made by Member Winholtz, and seconded by Member Mulholland, to have the Private Industry at-Large Member, if created, be a non-voting member, fails by a vote of 7-8. Discussion ensues regarding the support for creating the proposed membership group, including potential for conflicts of interest, potential transitory interest in water by the proposed membership group, whether the group is adequately represented by existing membership groups, private versus public interest membership groups and level of involvement via public participation. Motion made by Member Garfinkel to recommend including the proposed Private Industry at-Large Member in the WRAC By-Laws dies for lack of second. **Upon Motion by Member Mulholland, and second by Member Garfinkel, the WRAC will not recommend creating a Private Industry at-Large Member in the WRAC By-Laws, by a vote of 11-3-0.**

- 8) (7) Santa Margarita Ranch DEIR – Water Resources Considerations: Jeff Werst, SLO County Public Works, summarizes County Service Area (CSA 23) involvement in the DEIR process, informs the WRAC of the April 12, 2007 due date for public comment, and the location of a copy of the DEIR at www.sloplanning.org. Upon discussion regarding the comment period process, potential water resources impacts and the adequacy of the resource analysis, the WRAC decides to work with Staff to consolidate comments on the DEIR for action by the WRAC at the April meeting.

<Upon motion by Member Sinton, second by Member Mulholland, and vocal vote, the meeting is extended past 3:30 pm and a quorum is confirmed>

- 9) (8) Los Osos Resource Capacity Study: James Caruso, SLO County Planning, summarizes the recommendations made by the Planning Commission on the Los Osos Resource Capacity Study (RCS). Discussion ensues regarding the inclusion of recommending securing supplemental water, whether the County can become the lead agency in implementing recommendations or a groundwater management agency, current litigation, changing “should” to “shall”, defining the types of water uses and conservation. Upon Motion by Member Buel, and second by Member Mulholland, the WRAC votes to recommend approval of certifying a Level of Severity (LOS) III for Los Osos Water Supply, and approve the Los Osos RCS with modified Planning Commission recommendations, by a vote of 6-4. The modified recommendations include:

1. The County of San Luis Obispo ~~become the lead agency to implement~~ shall lead in facilitating the following recommendations.
8. The County adopt an ordinance that prohibits new subdivisions that result in the net increase in non-agricultural water usage from the basin.
12. A temporary moratorium be instituted for all new development that results in a net increase in non-agricultural water use from the basin until overall basin water use is reduced by at least 600 AFY over 2001 data.

- 10) Future Agenda Items: April - Nipomo RCS, Nipomo CSD member report, Santa Margarita Ranch DEIR. May – Presentations by John Snyder and John Seitz.

Meeting adjourned approx. 3:55 pm